

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: BALLING

In re Application of:

GEROLD BALLING

Appl. No.: 10/774,056

Filed: February 6, 2004

For: DEVICE FOR AUTOMATING AND/OR
CONTROLLING OF MACHINE TOOLS OR
PRODUCTION MACHINES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on May 6, 2004.
(Date)

HENRY M. FEIEREISEN

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

Date of Signature

S I R:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references A) to C) which were cited in the instant specification and to references D) to H). Applicant does not admit that any of the cited documents constitutes prior art against the pending application.

	Country:	Patent or Appl. No:	Patentee or Applicant:	Issue or Filing Date:
A)	Kief: "NC/CNC Handbuch",	Carl Hanser Vlg, München		1995/1996
B)	Germany	DE 102 43 771 A1	Reimann	09-20-2002
C)	Germany	DE 199 20 299 A1	Rumpler et al.	11-09-2000
D)	PCT	WO 03/001393 A2	Graiger et al.	01-03-2003
E)	Europe	0 369 188 A2	McCain et al.	05-23-1990
F)	Germany	DE 196 25 997 A1	Gebr. Heller Masch.	01-02-1998
G)	Germany	DE 199 04 543 A1	Linzmaier	02-10-2000
H)	Germany	DE 43 06 032 C2	Wende et al.	03-06-1997

Copies of these references are submitted herewith along with form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d), so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the issuance of a first office but before issuance of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

☐ The undersigned submits the following statement requesting consideration of this statement:

The undersigned hereby states:

☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;

☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

☐ The fee of \$180.00 set forth in 1.17(p).

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee as set forth in 1.17(p), and any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

In order to satisfy the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance of each item of information, applicant herewith notes with respect to any information that is not in English language and that was not cited in the instant specification as follows:

Reference D) refers to a portable device (1) which includes at least one optical output device (2) for visualizing the process data of a machine, a robot or a technical process, at least one input device (3) for influencing the operational functions of the device (1) and/or for operating the machine of the robot or the technical process, and a security circuit (12) for preventing the issue of undesired, erratic control commands to the machine, the robot or the technical process. The output devices (2) and input devices (3) are linked with a control device (14) that is accommodated by a substantially break-proof housing (7) and that includes at least one communication interface (7) to an external, locally remote control device. A plurality of input and output devices (2, 3) are functionally combined with a touch-sensitive screen (4) in the manner of a touch screen (5) and said touch-sensitive screen (4) extends across large areas of the surface of the housing (7).

Reference E) describes a method using at least one detection device (EM1,EM2) for dual channel detection of safety signals at the transmission end of a radio transmission path (FM1,FM2) with 2 radio transmission channels and at

least one signal processing device (VM1,VM2) with 2 parallel channels for redundant processing of the received signals. The signals are provided by at least two electromechanical, electrical, or electronic input elements (T1,Tn,NOTAUS) and combined with safety monitoring data for detecting false transmission and/or reception, loss of data, or data repetition.

Reference G) describes a control device having at least one controller area network bus (1,2) connected to each of the controlled elements of the machine tool, for providing the data for controlling the latter. The controller area network bus has at least one bus coupling element (3,4) for connection to a peripheral device (5) via an optical transmission path (8), providing electrical separation. The bus may include an amplifier for compensating the light losses within the bus before the bus coupling element connected to the peripheral device.

Reference H) describes a bus coupler including two slave connections (10,11) for connecting to a redundant master bus system (1). A master connection (12) is provided for connecting to a non-redundant slave bus system (6). A control unit (13) is provided which controls the data transmission between the slave connections and the master connection. The control unit transmits data from the non-redundant slave bus system to the redundant master bus system via both slave connections. Data from the redundant master bus system are transmitted to the non-redundant slave bus system via only one of the both slave connections.

Reference I) describes centralized and decentralized units of a communications system interlinked according to the prior art via cross-connecting

lines. The resulting high cabling cost is reduced by connecting optical filters to the transmission devices. An optical filter with a combining function is connected at the transmitting end to transmission devices in a reciprocally redundant configuration. Optical filters with a dividing function are connected at the receiving end to the respective transmission devices.

The above-identified application discloses and claims an invention patentable over this prior art.

Entry of the references above set forth into the file of the above application is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

By: 

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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION****Attorney's Docket No.**

BALLING

Applicant

Siemens Aktiengesellschaft

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Filing Date

February 6, 2004

Group**Examiner****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	DE 199 20 299 A1	11-09-2000	Germany			
	102 43 771.8	09-20-2002	Germany			
	WO 03/001393	01-03-2003	PCT			
	0 369 188 A2	05-23-1990	Europe			
	DE 196 25 997 A1	01-02-1998	Germany			
	DE 199 04 543 A1	02-10-2000	Germany			
	DE 43 06 032 C2	03-06-1997	Germany			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Hans B. Kief: "NC/CNC Handbuch '95/96, Carl Hanser Verlag München, pages 416 and following, 1995/1996

Examiner:**Date considered:**

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.